

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, line 18 that begins "Leg elastic members 61" as follows:

A Leg elastic members 61 are secured between the outer and inner layers 55, 57 of the outer cover 49, such as by being bonded therebetween by the laminate adhesive 59, generally adjacent laterally outer edges 63 of the inner layer of the outer cover. Alternatively, the leg elastic members 61 may be disposed between the outer cover 49 and the bodyside liner 51, or between other layers of the pants 21. A wide variety of elastic materials may be used for the leg elastic members 61. As is well known to those skilled in the art, suitable elastic materials include sheets, strands or ribbons of natural rubber, synthetic rubber, or thermoplastic elastomeric polymers. The elastic materials can be stretched and secured to a substrate, secured to a gathered substrate, or secured to a substrate and then elasticized or shrunk, for example with the application of heat, such that elastic retractive forces are imparted to the substrate. For example, one suitable elastic material is a dry-spun coalesced multifilament spandex elastomeric thread sold under the trade name LYCRA<sup>®</sup> and available from E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington, Delaware, U.S.A.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, line 27 that begins "The bodyside liner 51" as follows:

B3 The bodyside liner 51 can be manufactured from a wide selection of web materials, such as synthetic fibers (for example, polyester or polypropylene fibers), natural fibers (for example, wood or cotton fibers), a combination of natural and synthetic fibers, porous foams, reticulated foams,

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apertured plastic films, or the like. Various woven and non-woven fabrics can be used for the bodyside liner 51. For example, the liner 51 can be composed of a meltblown or spunbonded web of polyolefin fibers. Alternatively, the liner 51 can be a bonded-carded web composed of natural and/or synthetic fibers. The bodyside liner 51 can also be composed of a substantially hydrophobic material, and the hydrophobic material can, optionally, be treated with a surfactant or otherwise processed to impart a desired level of wettability and hydrophilicity. For example, the material can be surface treated with about 0.45 weight percent of a surfactant mixture including AHCOVEL<sup>®</sup> N-62 available from Unigema, Inc., a division of ICI of New Castle, Delaware, U.S.A, and GLUCOPON<sup>®</sup> 220UP available from Cognis Corporation of Ambler, Pennsylvania, U.S.A, in an active ratio of 3:1. The surfactant can be applied by any conventional means, such as spraying, printing, brush coating or the like. The surfactant can be applied to the entire liner 51 or it can be selectively applied to particular sections of the liner.

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Please amend the paragraph at page 15, line 18 that begins "A particularly suitable bodyside liner 51" as follows:

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A particularly suitable bodyside liner 51 is constructed of a non-woven bicomponent web having a basis weight of about 27 gsm. The non-woven bicomponent can be a spunbonded bicomponent web, or a bonded-carded bicomponent web. Suitable bicomponent staple fibers include a polyethylene/polypropylene bicomponent fiber available from ~~CHISSO~~ Chisso Corporation, Osaka, Japan. In this particular bicomponent fiber, the polypropylene forms the core and the polyethylene forms the

sheath of the fiber. Fibers having other orientations, such as multi-lobe, side-by-side, end-to-end may be used without departing from the scope of the invention. Also, although the outer cover 49 and bodyside liner 51 of the central absorbent assembly 23 can include elastomeric materials, it is contemplated that the central absorbent assembly may instead be generally inelastic, wherein the outer cover, the bodyside liner and the absorbent body 53 are composed of materials which are generally non-elastomeric.

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Please amend the paragraph at page 18, line 16 that begins "The flap elastics 99" as follows:

~~The flap elastics 99 of the illustrated embodiment~~  
comprise three individual strands of elastomeric material extending longitudinally along the distal end 103 of the flap 91 in generally parallel, spaced relation with each other. One suitable elastic strand is a LYCRA<sup>®</sup> T151 940 decitex elastic which can be obtained from E. I. duPont de Nemours Co. of Wilmington, Delaware. The elastic strands are secured between the non-woven layer 93 and the film layer 95 while in an elastically contractible condition such that contraction of the strands gathers and shortens the distal end 103 of the containment flap 91. As a result, the elastic strands bias the distal end 103 of each flap 91 toward a position spaced from the proximal end 109 of the flap so that the flap extends away from the liner 51 in a generally upright orientation of the flap, especially in the crotch region 27 of the training pants 21, when the pants are fitted on the wearer. It is understood, however, that the containment flaps 91 may be omitted from the

training pants 21 without departing from the scope of the invention.

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Please amend the paragraph at page 26, line 10 that begins "Figure 7 illustrates" as follows:

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35 Figure 7 illustrates training pants 221 of a third embodiment of the present invention similar to the training pants 21 of the first embodiment including a liner 251, an outer cover 249 having an outer layer 255 and an inner layer 257, an absorbent body 253 and containment flaps ~~491~~ 291. The absorbent body 253 of this third embodiment is desirably composed of hydrophilic fibers, such as a web of cellulosic fluff, and a high-absorbency material commonly known as superabsorbent material. More particularly, the absorbent body 253 is desirably composed of cellulosic fluff, such as wood pulp fluff, and superabsorbent hydrogel-forming particles. One suitable type of wood pulp fluff is identified with the trade designation CR1654, available from U.S. Alliance, Childersburg, Alabama, U.S.A., and is a bleached, highly absorbent sulfate wood pulp containing primarily soft wood fibers. However, the wood pulp fluff can be exchanged with other hydrophilic fiber materials, such as synthetic, polymeric, or meltblown fibers or with a combination of meltblown fibers and natural fibers.

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Please amend the Abstract of the Invention as follows:

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37 A disposable absorbent article having a generally liquid permeable liner, an outer cover and an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner. In one embodiment, the absorbent body has a first zone and a second zone, with the first zone having

a lower absorbent capacity per unit weight than the second zone and being capable of facilitating the flow of liquid body waste from the first zone back through the liner. In another embodiment, the absorbent body ~~comprises~~ has a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material. The mixture has a concentration of superabsorbent material of between about one percent and about fifteen percent by weight of the mixture to facilitate the flow of liquid body waste from the absorbent body back through the liner.

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